

WOMEN'S Christian Temperance Union OF NEW ZEALAND.

Organised 1885.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity."

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A SQUARE DEAL.

Convention felt that the hour had struck for a forward move. So it decided to secure a petition of women electors in each Electorate to be presented to their own Member before he leaves for the opening of the Session. In this, we ask for a square deal, a straight-out issue, wet or dry, and no increase of time between polls.

If there was any plague ruining the sheep or pigs of this Dominion, as alcohol is injuring its child life, the Government would set up Royal Commissions of Enquiry, and compel the evil cause to be removed. But as its only children who are dying, who are born sub-normal, weak, and

epileptic as the result of that racial poison alcohol, our Government looks on with indifference. Injury to sheep touches their pockets, lessens their wool cheques, and so must have a speedy remedy. Injury to children, apparently, does not touch their heart.

It is time the Mothers of this land demanded from the Prime Minister an answer to this question: "If you will not give us a clean-cut issue on this question, wet or dry, then give us a reason, not an excuse—for a Three-Issue Ballot Paper?"

LETTER FROM DOMINION PRESIDENT.

Dear Sisters,—

Convention has once more come and gone. It was a record one in numbers; may the year to follow be a record one in purposeful endeavour. Our hope and prayer is that it may have inspired us to an ever widening vision of high endeavour in the cause of our Master. Strenuous and purposeful work has been initiated, and must go forward at once. The full voice of the Unions in New Zealand, as represented at Convention, was hearty and unanimous, for what was done?

The promotion of a woman's petition for a two-issue ballot paper and no extension of time between polls is the first, and altogether the most important piece of work undertaken.

The whole petition must be put through in less than two months, so that any delay amongst our Unions may prove disastrous.

To make excuses to ourselves for inactivity on this most vital matter must and will mean that we are false to our own ideals and disloyal to the voice of the Union in Convention assembled.

Furthermore, it will mean that our boasted opposition to the handicap of the three-issue ballot paper is one of words only, a pretence or an excuse for work not done in winning votes.

I have faith to believe that every woman of the many thousands who belong to our Unions is so filled with the spirit of our Lord, so true to our great reform, and so filled with love for humanity, that she will do her very utmost to make this petition a success, and bring us one step nearer the abolition of the liquor traffic.

For 36 years have we struggled against the oppression of this our en-

emy in an unequal fight, first in one form, and then in another.

Not in all these years have we once had a fair chance to record the wishes of the people of New Zealand for and against this traffic.

Here and now is a great and a splendid opportunity for us to show the men who represent us in Parliament and in the Cabinet what mind we are on the question.

Surely, sisters, we as enfranchised women—mothers of men, mothers of the race, and keepers of the nation—surely we have the right to insist what influences shall surround the lives of our sons and daughters. They are ours. We have been made responsible by God and by man for their moral, physical, and spiritual well-being. Let us boldly say what shall be done with them.

Let us not miss this opportunity to help forward the abolition of the traffic that stands stark across the threshold of life, seeking to turn our youth into the downward byways that lead to the extinction of all high endeavour and noble purpose in life and character.

We can make a splendid success of this petition if we will. Let us show, with no uncertain sound, what the womanhood of New Zealand stands for. Let us take our great Master at His word, and work and pray with the faith that passes through impossibilities and cries, "It can be done."

E. B. TAYLOR,

Dominion President.

PEACE DAY.

Monday, May 16th, has been chosen as Peace Day this year. Will every Union do the very best to get a prayer meeting somewhere between the hours of 2.30 and 4 p.m. Very few people realise the strength of simultaneous prayer. Some other time will not do as well. A great scientist has told us that the human brain is the most powerful dynamo in the world. What a wonderful power it will have, if at the same time on Monday, May 16th, every member and sympathiser with our Peace work is actively praying for world Peace. All our powerful dynamos (brains) sending out peace thoughts, and all our loving hearts praying in unison for it. If unable to get to a meeting, you can join your prayers with the great company assembled together.